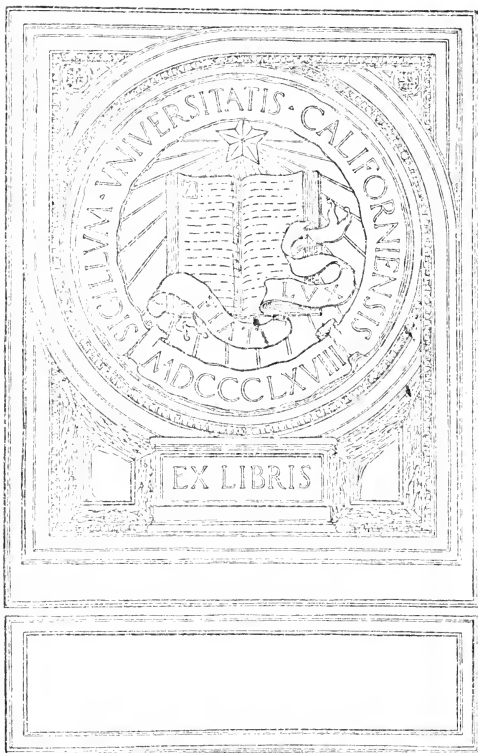


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Col. VARNUM's

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A D D R E S S,

DELIVERED

TO the THIRD DIVISION of MASSACHUSETTS MILI-
TIA, at a REVIEW, on the PLAINS of

C O N C O R D,

27th AUGUST, 1800.

BY HON. JOSEPH B. VARNUM ESQ.

Col. in the same Division.

LIBRARY OF
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PRINTED BY WILLIAM HILLIARD,

—
1800.

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22 FEB 2

To the President of the United States
and to the members of the House of Representatives

CONCORD

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

1960

NEWTON, JUNE 1st, 1800.

DEAR SIR,

THE Committee appointed by the Officers of the 3d Division, of the Militia of this Commonwealth, and by them duly authorized for the purpose, have desired me to inform you that it is their wish that you deliver an Address to the Officers of the Division the present year, at such time and place as shall hereafter be appointed, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A WELL ORGANIZED AND DISCIPLINED MILITIA, TO PRESERVE AND PERPETUATE THE PRINCIPLES OF A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT.

I am your most obedt. servt.

WILLIAM HULL, Chairman.

Hon. Col. JOSEPH B. VARNUM.

DRACUTT, AUGUST 13th, 1800.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

RESTING on the candour of my fellow-citizens, to pass by any unintentional error which may escape me, and accept of my upright intentions, I will attempt a compliance with the wish of the Committee of the Officers of the 3d Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, communicated by your letter of the first of June last.

I am Sir, with high esteem,
your obedient Servant,

J. B. VARNUM,

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM HULL.

NEWTON, 28th AUGUST, 1800.

SIR,

THE Committee, appointed by the Officers of the 3d Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, have desired me to present to you the thanks of the Division for the elegant and truly republican Address, which you delivered on the plains of Concord, on the 27th inst. and to request a copy for the press.

WILLIAM HULL, Chairman.

Hon. Col. J. B. VARNUM.

DRACUTT, SEPTEMBER 17th, 1800.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

WITH grateful sensibility, I acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 28th of the last month, in behalf of the Committee of the Officers of the 3d Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, expressing the thanks of the Division, for the Ad-

ALBANY, N. Y.

dress delivered on the plains of Concord, on the 27th ult. and requesting a copy for the press. With deference to the request of the Committee, and from having always been in the habit of considering a request from my superior Officers, in their official capacity, equivalent to a command, I have been induced to inclose you a copy of the Address referred to.

With sentiments of high respect

and esteem, I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedient Servant,

J. B. VARNUM.

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM HULL.

ADDRESS, &c.

HAPPINESS IS THE PRIMARY PURSUIT OF MAN.

TO secure the enjoyment of as great a portion of this blessing as the lot of humanity will admit, it has been found necessary, by the people of all ages, in consequence of the primitive apostacy, to form social compacts, and establish systems of civil government.

VARIOUS have been the forms of government which have been introduced among men, but that system which is best calculated to promote the happiness of the people, is most congenial to the principles of its institution, and justly claims the most cordial support of every individual.

ALTHOUGH systems of civil government have been so numerous in the world, it is conceived that they admit of a natural division, into two classes ; one comprehending all those in which a majority of the people retain the sovereignty, and are justly denominated free governments ; the other, comprehending those which vest the sovereignty in a minority of the people, whether it be in one man, or in any greater number of men, and are with propriety denominated arbitrary governments.

THOSE systems of government which divest a majority of the people of the sovereignty, are in their operation, generally arbitrary and oppressive ; but those in which they retain it, are liberal in their operation ;

the surest defence of life, liberty and property ; and the most congenial to prosperity and happiness.

THE system of government established in the United States, under which we have the happiness to live, makes solemn declaration, that "government is instituted for the common good ; for the protection, safety, prosperity and happiness of the people ; and not for the profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family or class of men ; therefore the people alone have an incontestible, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government ; and to reform, alter, and totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity and happiness require it." Believing this declaration to be founded in the most sacred truth, will it not incontrovertibly follow, that every government which deprives the people of these rights, is not only arbitrary and oppressive, but diametrically opposed to the principles of morality and religion ? which is the only foundation on which any system of civil government can be supported, with a rational prospect of the approbation and blessing of Heaven. For if government is instituted for the common good, and the people have an incontestible right to form, alter, and change the same, as will best comport with their own prosperity and happiness ; this inestimable privilege must have been conferred on them by INFINITE WISDOM : And if so conferred, how exceedingly impious must it be in any one man, or class of men, to wrest it out of their hands ; and in the people to alienate it by any art of theirs.

OFTEN the character of a people is most clearly discernible by the system of government under which they live.

KNOWLEDGE and virtue are indispensibly necessary in the formation and support of a republican system ;

but ignorance and vice are delicious food for despotism, and all kinds of arbitrary government. Hence it will follow, that under arbitrary governments, the body of the people are frequently ignorant and vicious ; but in republican governments supported in their purity, useful knowledge and virtue will prevail.

To verify this position, recur to the vile character of the tyrant of Shinar, who first introduced a monarchical, despotic and arbitrary government, to the character of the people whom he governed, and extend the idea to the character of the despots of the world, and of the people whom they have governed since that period ; and on the other hand contrast the theocracy or republican system of government introduced by the SUPREME GOVERNOR OF THE UNIVERSE, among the ancient Hebrews. View the immaculate character of the author, and the character of that, and of other nations, while they have lived under, and supported in its purity, that ethereal system ; and contemplate the wonderful proficiency which they have constantly made in useful knowledge, and the miraculous deliverances and prosperity which they have experienced from the hand of Providence.

THE dreadful calamity of war soon succeeded the introduction of arbitrary governments ; and standing armies the bane of liberty, but necessary concomitants of tyranny were by degrees established. Hence followed oppression, devastation, and the torrents of human blood which have been shed by despotic ambition and cruelty.

ARBITRARY governments were introduced by depraved man, and like corrupt fountains, have, from their first commencement, been constantly disgorging torrents of oppression on the human race ; but republican governments were introduced by INFINITE WIS-

DOM, and by their benign influence, have without ceasing diffused the sweets of liberty, prosperity and happiness.

ARBITRARY governments are calculated to depress the mind of man, and render him useless in society; yea, ten thousand fold worse than useless—for, the state of vassalage and depression in which they place him, drives him to a state of desparation, and he becomes a fit tool in the hands of despots, to butcher the human race, and spread devastation through the world. But an energetic republican government, like the glorious system established in the United States, is calculated to expand and ennoble the mind of man, and render him useful to society. It is opposed to all kinds of offensive war, but most admirably calculated to defend against every aggression. Being founded on the principles of civil and religious liberty, it is a favorite of benevolence, and a companion of philanthropy: Its primary qualities are calculated to promote the happiness of mankind, and the glory of their Creator.

THE faithful have never been suffered to lose their reward. Wherever a republican government has been established, and religiously supported, prosperity and happiness have been enjoyed.

WHILE the ancient Greeks and Romans retained their liberty and republican government, they made wonderful proficiency in the arts and sciences, and in many kinds of useful knowledge, and were prosperous and happy; but how exceedingly reverse was their situation when they relinquished these principles, and embraced monarchy.

THE Jewish nation enjoyed the blessings of a republican government many hundred years; during

which period they were miraculously delivered from despotic vengeance, fed from Heaven, and prospered in all their lawful pursuits ; but when they forsook their ethereal government, and insisted on a king, Divine displeasure was clearly manifested, and the most distressing calamities awaited them in their final dispersion.

If republican governments are thus pleasing to Heaven, and happifying to men, how exceedingly have a great part of mankind missed the object of their pursuit, by embracing those systems which are founded in iniquity, and every way calculated to render them completely miserable : But is not the fact sufficient evidence of the prevalence of vice in the world ; and an important monitor to those who still retain free governments, cautiously to avoid the rocks and shoals on which others have foundered ?

WHEN most of the nations of the world had sunk into a state of degradation and misery, under despotic oppression, this American Canaan was pointed out by Infinite Benevolence, as an asylum for the oppressed.

THE many sufferings which were sustained by our ancestors in this wilderness and savage country, were considered by them as trivial burthens, when compared with those they had been compelled to endure in their native land ; here they were blessed with the sweets of liberty, and the rights of conscience ; their love of freedom, and zeal in religion, enabled them with heroic fortitude to surmount every obstacle, and glide cheerfully on towards that meridian splendor and happiness which is now enjoyed by the people of the United States.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many provocations to a total alienation, they continued their filial affection for

Great-Britain, and assisted her in her wars with France and Spain. Although the last French war in America which was terminated by the treaty of Paris in 1763, arose from a dispute between Great-Britain and France, relative to the territory of Nova-Scotia, and the navigation of the Mississippi, and not from any dispute between the French and Americans, yet they furnished her with twenty-five thousand men, and paid them out of their own treasuries, to assist her in subduing the French colonies in America.

BUT the insatiable thirst for despotic sway, which is too prevalent in the hearts of tyrants, prompted the British cabinet, the next year after the close of this long and distressing war, to extend the hard hand of oppression to the people of America: Many acts were passed, depriving them of their ancient rights, in violation of the parental affection which nature dictates, and of that justice which reason clearly designates, and which merit incontestibly claims.

THE extraordinary proceedings of the British monarch, toward the people of America, for ten years before the commencement of the revolutionary war, are justly and very beautifully delineated in the declaration of Independence.

NEITHER the humble and pathetic petitions repeatedly preferred to the British government, nor the manly attitude which the people assumed for the defence of their rights, could alter the determination of the British King to establish an absolute tyranny over us.

THE rapacious conduct of his troops, under the command of Col. SMITH, on the 19th of April 1775, in pursuit of the stores of this state, and of our venerable fellow-citizens JOHN HANCOCK and SAMUEL ADAMS, is a just epitome of his arbitrary and unrelent-

ing determination. Can we take a retrospect of that cruel and bloody scene without feeling the warmest emotions of detestation to all kinds of arbitrary government? View the eight unoffending citizens, who fell the first victims of this despotic career on the plains of Lexington! Behold the republicans with their garments rolled in blood at Concord bridge! See the wanton destruction of the public property; and mark the footsteps of the despotic band from Concord to Charlestown! the inhabitants robbed of their property! buildings in flames! the roads stained with human blood, strewn with the bodies of the wounded and dead, and resounding with the dying groans of our departing friends! Little ones crying with lamentable accents from the fields and from the groves, having been frightened from their homes by this new and awful scene, and not knowing where to flee for refuge! The innocent fair with their blooming beauty suffused by their watery eyes, lamenting over their mangled, bleeding, dying and departed husbands, fathers and friends, and their distressing palpitations of heart bursting into the most grievous sighs!

BUT the invincible love of liberty, prompted the republican militia to fly to the field of action, in defence of their country's rights, and bravely pursue the enemy to Charlestown neck.*

THOSE heroes who took an active part in the defence of their country on that day, will always be held in grateful remembrance by the friends of freedom.— Their firmness at that trying period, under the auspices of Divine Providence, laid the foundation of the independence and happiness which we now enjoy.

THE seventeenth of June, the same year, exhibited

* Sixty Republicans and 250 Britons fell a sacrifice on that day.

another specimen of the distresses of that unjust war, in the battle of Bunker's-hill, and the destruction of Charlestown. How painful the idea, that five hundred republicans must be destroyed on that day, as a token of royal displeasure, when a thousand men of the royal army, must fall a sacrifice in effecting it ; a flourishing town reduced to ashes ; the inhabitants plundered of their property and scattered abroad, without the means of subsistence, in consequence of their attachment to the cause of liberty, the cause of their country, the cause of God ! Their case ought never to fail of the most cordial commiseration of their country : The recollection of it never can fail of exciting painful sensations in every benevolent heart.

EXTACY of joy filled every countenance on the evacuation of Boston by the enemy in 1776. The citizens of that town were thereby enabled to return in safety to their delightful habitations, from whence, after suffering a long series of despotic oppression, they had been obliged to flee, and take refuge among their friends in the country, or join the royal standard, which, thanks be to Heaven, they disdained with heroic contempt.

BUT how soon were the distresses of war felt in a ten fold degree in many other parts of the United States, which continued with unrelenting fury for eight years. Large armies of British troops and foreign mercenaries, pursuing their works of plunder, devastation and death, through that distressing period.

THE ever memorable declaration of Independence was of much importance to the United States in repelling the enemy ; it enabled them to obtain foreign succour, much to their advantage.

THE steady, uniform and persevering conduct of the people of the United States during the war, excited the astonishment of the civilized world, and induced their enemy to acknowledge the justice of their cause. They cheerfully encountered every danger, and manfully opposed every aggression. Every man was ready to act the part of the soldier, and each soldier retained the appellation of citizen. An army of citizens voluntarily engaged; a part during the war, and the remainder for shorter periods, sufficient, with the assistance of the militia, and our then generous ally, to repel the aggressions of the enemy.

WHEN the war was over, as became republicans, the army cheerfully resumed their former occupations, while our beloved WASHINGTON, their commander, after taking a pathetic leave of them, resigned his commission into the hands of the President of Congress, amidst the applauses of his admiring countrymen, and like the Roman Cincinnatus, returned to the honorable employment of agriculture.— Their military operations, with a WASHINGTON at their head, would have done immortal honor to long experienced officers and veteran troops. Good order was preserved in all the states, even before their systems of civil governments were framed. Each state made great exertions to excel in the defence of the common cause.

THE proceedings of Congress exhibit the most striking combination of abilities, integrity, profound knowledge and unshaken stability, that is to be found in the history of man; among which is the immortal declaration of Independence, subscribed by a list of worthies from each state, whose names will be ever dear to the friends of liberty. The conventions for framing the state and federal constitutions, as though inspired from heaven, composed the glorious

system of civil government, which, by the blessing of Providence, is now enjoyed by the people of the United States. These important services can never be forgotten by a grateful country.

WELL might General BURGOYNE exclaim in the British parliament, after his capture at Saratoga and return to England, that the war with America was wrong ; that the uniform conduct of the people had convinced him of the fact. " Passion, prejudice and interest might operate suddenly and partially ; but when we saw one principle pervading the whole continent, the Americans resolutely encountering difficulties and death, for a course of years, it must be a strong vanity and presumption in our minds, which would only lead us to imagine that they were not in the right. It was reason and the finger of God alone, that implanted the same sentiment in three millions of people."

AMIDST the calamities of war, as though our independence had been recorded in Heaven, the people of each state framed a constitution for themselves, all founded on republican principles and similar to each other. The states also entered into articles of confederation for the general defence. When the articles of confederation were found inadequate to the purposes for which they were adopted, the efficacy of republicanism made a conspicuous appearance in the free deliberations of the people on, and their adoption of, the federal constitution, which is also founded on republican principles, and guarantees a republican form of government to every state in the Union.

THUS a complete system of civil government has been framed and adopted by the people of the United States, every way calculated to render them politically happy. The state governments are vested with all

the powers necessary to regulate the police, and punish the aggressions which are of a local nature; and those subjects which relate to the general defence and welfare, are delegated to the federal government.

FROM the different habits, interest and circumstances of the people in this extended territory, comprehending nearly six hundred million acres of land, situate in different climates, it is not conceived within the power of human wisdom, to frame a code of laws touching all the subjects of legislation, which would properly apply to the people of all the states. Hence the federal and state governments are of equal importance in the general system, and must be equally supported and defended, if we would perpetuate the system in its purity. Our legislators, both state and federal, are of ourselves, and our president and governors proceed from the midst of us; the sovereignty is in the body of the people; all our public agents periodically return to private life, and the people have retained the power and the right to change them at each revolving election.

Is it possible, that a system of civil government can be better calculated to suit the situation and circumstances, and to promote the happiness of the people of the United States? How conspicuous are its beauties. It seems indeed, that nothing short of inspiration from heaven could have directed to such a wonderful system. Many years experience have fully proved its superior excellencies, and clearly demonstrated its ethereal qualities.

To secure and perpetuate these all important privileges, it is highly incumbent on us to follow the laudable example of those who were instrumental in procuring them.

WITH a special regard to the prosperity and happiness of the people, legislators will always consider the constitution of their country as the pole star of their political conduct. Executive and judicial officers will strictly execute the laws; but cautiously avoid substituting those things for law which have never received legislative sanction; for our government is a government of laws, and not of men.

EACH individual in our republic will consider himself under the most sacred obligations to respect the political transactions of a majority of the people, and the laws made by the constituted authority.

IF any part of the administration of the government should at any time prove injurious or burthensome to the people, the fault cannot be attributed to the system composed by our state and federal constitutions, but must rest on those who are intrusted with the administration of it: Those therefore who may consider themselves thus aggrieved, will cautiously and conscientiously avoid all unconstitutional and illegal measures in their pursuit of redress; and strictly adhere to such measures only, as are pointed out by the system itself.

THE government of the United States; (including the state governments,) will be considered the palladium of our political happiness; and will be supported and defended by every friend to liberty and the rights of man, against every species of foreign aggression and internal usurpation and violence.

THE man who would not defend the United States against the aggressions of the most favored foreign nation, at the risque of his life and property, is utterly unworthy of the privileges enjoyed by their citizens, and ought immediately to be compelled to repair to that state of vassalage which his conduct justly merits.

LARGE standing armies have been regarded by our late beloved WASHINGTON, as well as by other great and good men in all countries, as particularly hostile to republican liberty ; while the militia, composed of the citizens, has been considered the only proper military force in a free government. Those sentiments comport with the fundamental principles of our government, and must be scrupulously regarded, if we would support and perpetuate it.

It was the instrumentality of standing armies, that enabled the Roman generals, after inflaming the quarrels between the Patricians and Plebians, to establish an hereditary monarchy in Rome, and lay the foundation for the destruction of republican liberty which had been supported by that nation many hundred years ; that in connection with the want of a confederacy among the states of Greece, enabled Philip, king of Macedon, to gain an ascendancy over the Grecian republics, exterminate their liberty, and establish himself hereditary monarch and despot ; that prompted Alexander his son and successor to pursue his ambitious thirst for conquest, until he spread devastation over a great part of the world ; that induced Hannibal to ascend the icy Alps, and cut subterraneous passages through craggy mountains, for the descent of his army upon the plains of Italy, in pursuit of plunder and conquest ; that produced the destruction of the beautiful city of Carthage and massacred its inhabitants ; that incited Cæsar and Pompey to plunge the citizens of Rome into a bloody and desolating war with each other ; that enabled the haughty Romans to destroy the much celebrated city of Corinth, massacre the unoffending males, and sell the innocent females for slaves, and extend oppression and conquest with unrelenting sway ; that enabled the Spanish monarchs to pursue their system of persecution, devastation and bloodshed, in the Unit-

ed Provinces of Holland, so long a time ; that enabled the British monarch to invade the rights of the United States, and in the field, in loathsome guard-ships, and dreary prisons, to destroy near eighty thousand of our beloved fellow-citizens ; and that, under the auspices and direction of arbitrary governments, have produced a great part of the misery and bloodshed which have taken place in the world. Large standing armies have rooted out republican liberty wherever they have been established ; but the militia, composed of the body of the citizens, have proved a sure source of defence in free countries. Ancient and modern republics have always retained their liberty, and enjoyed prosperity, while their defence hath been thus composed. Wisdom hath directed the United States to this proper and efficient mode of defence. It is the language of our government, it has been the repeated decision of our legislatures, and the constant and most cordial voice of the people.

WHILE we acknowledge with gratitude the readiness of our fellow-citizens who composed the late raised army, to obey the voice of their country, in taking the field, we rejoice with them that their military services were no longer required.

FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE
MILITIA OF MIDDLESEX.

To the militia of the United States is committed the military defence of our beloved country, its independence, government and liberty, against all foreign invasion and internal violence. The recent decision of our federal legislature in discharging the army which was raised and in the field, at a period when a great part of the old world are engaged in the most sanguinary war, is an honorable testimony and renewal of that high confidence which our country have reposed in us. The station which we hold in the military defence of

our country, is highly important and honorable. And in order, as near as may be, to equalize the burthen of militia duty, all the able bodied citizens are called on by rotation to perform it, through a certain period of life ; except such as are in other public employments, which render it incompatible.

WE are required by the laws of our country, and the strongest ties of duty, to be constantly armed and equipped as soldiers ; to acquaint ourselves with tactics ; and at all times to hold ourselves in the most perfect readiness to take the field, in defence of our country's rights.

DISCIPLINE is an essential requisite in all military corps ; without it an army would be of but little use ; in a combat with veteran troops, they would soon become a confused disorderly mass, and fall an easy prey to their enemy.

THE discipline of the militia of the United States, is as important as the privileges which we enjoy ; for without discipline, it would be preposterous and vain for us to imagine that the defence of our invaluable treasures were safely deposited.

DISCIPLINE will give the militia confidence in themselves, in case of an invasion by veteran troops ; it will prompt them with heroic fortitude to encounter an enemy ; it will afford them courage and consolation in time of action ; and it will enable them, by Divine assistance, to repel and conquer the most formidable force, which the machinations of despots and the enemies of our liberty can produce against us,

A WELL disciplined militia, composed of five hundred thousand freemen, owners of the soil of their country, who have the dearest connections to defend,

and who are daily feasting on the delicious streams which flow from the fountain of liberty, under the auspices of our most excellent system of government, will have the greatest imaginable tendency to deter foreign nations from attempting to annoy us; and internal opposition to our liberty and government, from bursting into a flame, and thereby prevent the effusion of much human blood.

A WELL disciplined militia will be the surest defence against the machinations of artful and designing men, who wish to subvert the principles of our government, and introduce an hereditary system ; it will be the only certain means of saving our republic, and of preserving our federal and state constitutions inviolate.

BOTH officers and privates will therefore feel the pressing necessity, as well as the binding obligations of duty which devolves on them ; to pay the strictest attention to military discipline, order and subordination, with an unreserved determination punctually to obey the mandates of their country, and render, by their honorable military conduct, every pretext for a standing army, preposterous and contemptible.

MAY the soldier-like appearance, order and discipline of the division at this meeting, afford satisfaction to the friends of freedom. May it meet the approbation of his excellency the governor, our commander in chief in this state ; and although he is not present, may it exhibit to him a just specimen of the military strength of the state over which he presides ; while he felicitates himself in the contemplation, that his command alone, is amply sufficient to supercede the baneful necessity of a standing army.

PROPRIETY of conduct in the division, on this as well as on all other occasions, will be highly gratifying to

our beloved major-general, who, in connection with many present, has manfully, and with high reputation, acted the part of the soldier for eight years, in defence of republican liberty; and has since that period, done much to promote the order, discipline and respectability of the militia : May his brilliant talents and profound abilities, added to his military knowledge, patriotic zeal and benevolent disposition, ever grace the high and important station which he holds, and command a suitable veneration and respect from his fellow-citizens, while we most earnestly invoke the Supreme Governor of events, long to continue him in life, and in his military command. Propriety of conduct in the division will be pleasing to our worthy and respectable brigadier-generals; and afford consolation to those who are officers of lower rank—and privates.

MAY a laudable spirit of emulation ever prompt the militia of Middlesex, and of the United States, to excel in order and discipline, and their love of liberty, independence and the government which they have assisted in establishing, excite in them an unalterable determination, cheerfully to discharge the part of duty which legally devolves on them, in a manner which will convince the world that it will be in vain for the enemies of our independence and government to assail our rights.

ALL classes of our citizens being equally interested in our independence and government, their protection and defence is equally obligatory on all.

It must afford consolation to the American Fair, that the history of ages will exhibit honorable testimony of female opposition to arbitrary governments, and of their virtuous attachment to the cause of freedom. They had an important share in effecting the independence of the United States. Their soft and impelling

injunctions on their friends, manfully to defend the cause of their country, and their readiness to encounter the most pressing difficulties to procure its liberty, increased the ardor of the citizen, and afforded consolation to the soldier. Our country having obtained the important privileges which they were anxiously solicitous to enjoy, we cannot doubt but their virtuous exertions and important influence, will have an honorable share in their perpetuity.

It is highly important, in the support of our rights, to cultivate friendship and unanimity among ourselves, and peace, where it can be had upon honorable terms, with all the nations of the world. Peace is a beautiful characteristic of a republican government. It is one of the richest blessings of society. The excellency of its qualities ought to be a sufficient incitement to its universal promotion.

THE constitutional privileges of the people are immediately connected with the existence of our government, and ought never to be neglected. Knowledge and virtue among the people are also inseparably connected with the existence of a republican government; they must stand and fall together. It is therefore indispensibly necessary, if we would support our government, to promote industry and frugality; the arts and sciences, and all kinds of useful education; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, and all the social virtues, with an exemplary veneration for piety, morality and religion, which crowns the character of man, and add a glorious lustre to all his other qualifications.

WHILE we mourn the loss of our late beloved WASHINGTON, and the many heroes and statesmen of our country, who have recently paid the debt of na-

ture, let us for a moment, recur to the gloomy and distressing period of our revolutionary war, in which near eighty thousand of our fellow-citizens presented before the altar of their country, offered themselves a willing sacrifice in behalf of posterity, to procure that independence and free government, which is now the glory of the United States. Recognize them in the excruciating agonies of death, with their garments rolled in blood, and where is the heart so lost to sensibility and duty as to violate these dear bought privileges, this precious treasure? May it never be found to disgrace the American Republic.

THE convulsions in Europe have recently threatened to annoy our peace ; much of our property has been unjustly taken by the contending powers ; and great expence has been incurred by the defensive measures which have been adopted—in regard to the necessity of a part of which, it is well known that there has been a difference of sentiment, both in the legislature, and among the people. Yet, how happy is our situation, when compared with that of other nations ? We still retain all our important privileges. The foundation of our government has not been shaken ; and we may felicitate ourselves and our country, that the clouds which for some time past have darkened our political hemisphere, begin to disperse ; and from the wise measures adopted by the President of the United States, there is the most pleasing prospect of a speedy and amicable settlement with the French Republic.

How exceedingly precious are the blessings conferred on us by INFINITE WISDOM. While a great part of the old world is overwhelmed in despotic oppression, involved in the most distressing calamities, and their land deluged in human blood, the important bless-

ings of peace, plenty, independence, and civil and religious liberty, under the auspices of an energetic republican government, are by the beneficence of Heaven, continued to the United States.

MAY the people ever realize the inestimable worth of our independence, government and liberty, and cheerfully perform every part of duty incumbent on them for their support and defence, with a firm reliance on the SUPREME GOVERNOR of the Universe for their continuance, until time shall be no more !

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